

Strategic Plan for the U.S. Climate Change Science Program



A Report by the Climate Change Science Program and
the Subcommittee on Global Change Research



July 2003

Members of Congress:

Transmitted herewith is a copy of the *Strategic Plan for the Climate Change Science Program*. This document describes the Climate Change Science Program (CCSP) approach to enhancing scientific understanding of global climate change. This plan is summarized in a companion document, *The U.S. Climate Change Science Program: Vision for the Program and Highlights of the Scientific Strategic Plan*.

This strategic plan responds to the President's direction that climate change research activities be accelerated to provide the best possible scientific information to support public discussion and decisionmaking on climate-related issues. The plan also responds to Section 104 of the Global Change Research Act of 1990, which mandates the development and periodic updating of a long-term national global change research plan coordinated through the National Science and Technology Council. This is the first comprehensive update of a strategic plan for U.S. global change and climate change research since the original plan for the U.S. Global Change Research Program was adopted at the inception of the program in 1989.

The President established the U.S. Climate Change Science Program in 2002 as part of a new cabinet-level management structure to oversee public investments in climate change science and technology. The new management structure also includes the Climate Change Technology Program, which is responsible for accelerating climate-related technology research and development. The CCSP incorporates the U.S. Global Change Research Program, established by the Global Change Research Act, and the Climate Change Research Initiative, established by the President in 2001. The Program coordinates and integrates scientific research on global change and climate change sponsored by 13 participating departments and agencies of the U.S. Government.

The CCSP, under the direction of the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, reports through the Interagency Working Group on Climate Change Science and Technology to the cabinet-level Committee on Climate Change Science and Technology Integration. The chairmanship of these coordinating bodies rotates annually between the Departments of Commerce and Energy, with the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy serving as the Executive Director of the cabinet-level committee.

The CCSP strategic plan, though disseminated by the Department of Commerce, was developed through a multi-agency collaboration and has benefited substantially from external review of an earlier discussion draft by a special committee of the National Academy of Sciences – National Research Council, as well as extensive public review by hundreds of scientists and stakeholders. The strategic plan document contains a detailed discussion of the goals and priorities for the program and how climate and global change research activities will be integrated.

The CCSP strategic plan reflects a commitment to high-quality research that advances the frontiers of science and outlines an integrated approach for developing an improved understanding of climate change and its potential impacts. The program described in this strategic plan will meet the highest standards of credibility and transparency to support public evaluation of climate change issues.

We thank the participating departments and agencies of the CCSP for their close cooperation and support and look forward to working with Congress in the continued development of these important programs.

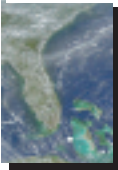

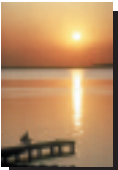

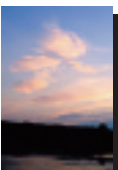

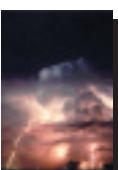
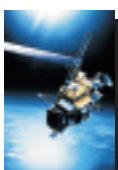
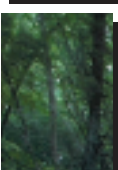

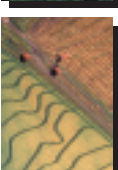
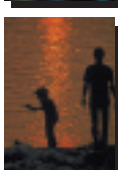

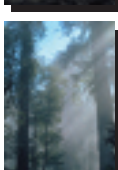


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Strategic Plan for the Climate Change Science Program

FOREWORD

In February 2002, President George W. Bush announced the formation of a new management structure, the Climate Change Science Program (CCSP), to coordinate and direct the U.S. research efforts in the areas of climate and global change. These research efforts include the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) authorized by the Global Change Research Act of 1990, and the Climate Change Research Initiative (CCRI), launched by the President in June 2001 to reduce significant uncertainties in climate science, improve global observing systems, develop science-based information resources to support policymaking and resource management, and communicate findings broadly among the international scientific and user communities. The CCSP aims to balance the near-term (2- to 4-year) focus of the CCRI with the breadth of the USGCRP.

This strategic plan has been prepared by the 13 federal agencies participating in the CCSP, with coordination by the CCSP staff under the leadership of Dr. Richard H. Moss. The development of this plan has benefited from the contributions of an extraordinarily large number of climate scientists and users of climate information. More than 250 federal government scientists participated in drafting both the *Discussion Draft Strategic Plan* published by CCSP in November 2002, and the revised plan presented in this document. The CCSP Climate Science Workshop, held in Washington, DC, in December 2002, provided critique and suggestions from 1,300 climate scientists and information users from throughout the United States and 35 other nations. In

January 2003, CCSP received 270 sets of comments from participants in the workshop and other interested specialists. At the request of CCSP, the National Academy of Sciences – National Research Council (NRC) convened an expert committee to review the *Discussion Draft Strategic Plan* and the workshop discussions. The NRC committee provided extensive advice in its review published in February 2003.

We thank all of those individuals and groups who have contributed substantially to the completion of this strategic plan, and we hope that the plan will provide useful guidance for the continued national investment in climate change science. While acknowledging the useful contributions of many specialists, the CCSP interagency team takes responsibility for the plan, and invites continued correspondence regarding improvements that should be considered over the months and years ahead. A prominent web link for receiving and displaying comments will be maintained at the web site <www.climatescience.gov>. In view of the evolving nature of science, and in view of the continuing emergence of key climate change issues, we expect that periodic updates of selected elements of the strategic plan will be published when warranted.

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and Director, Climate Change Science Program

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